

5th September 1959]

Government Transport

* 111 Q.—SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) whether Sri J. B. Shearer, I.L.O. Expert, who is investigating into the working and organisation of the Madras Government Transport has submitted his report; and

(b) what are the terms of reference made to him?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (a) The final report of the I.L.O. Expert is awaited.

(b) The Expert has been requested to make a comprehensive survey of the entire transport system. The following specific subjects have also been suggested to him for study :—

(i) Breakdown and their prevention.

(ii) Traffic pattern of routes and buses operating thereon.

(iii) Stores organisation.

(iv) Government Transport Central Workshop Chromepet.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : May I know for how long has this expert been on his work, when his report is expected and what action will the Government take on the report?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The expert has been on his work since January and is expected to complete the work by December this year. The action to be taken on the report will depend on the report itself.

SRI S. LAZAR : இந்த நிபுணர்கள் ஏற்கெனவே இப்படிப்பட்ட பஸ் தொழிலில் ஈடுபட்டு அனுபவம் வாய்ந்தவர்களா அல்லது சாதாரணமாக 'டெக்னிக்' தெரிந்து அந்த வகையில் தொழில் தெரிந்த நிபுணர்களா அல்லது வேறு ஒரு நிபுணர் அடங்கிய அட்வைசரி கமிட்டியைப் போட்டு அது போன்று ஒரு குழுவை நியமிப்பதற்கு இந்த அரசாங்கத்திற்கு உத்தேசம் உண்டா?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : சர்வதேச தொழிலாளர்கள் ஸ்தாபனத்தில் உற்பத்தி அதிகரிப்பது "ப்ரோடக்டிவிட்டி ஸ்கீம்கள்" என்ற துறையில் இருக்கக்கூடியவர். அப்படிப்பட்ட நிபுணர் ஒருவரும் அவருக்கு அபிப்பிராயம் சொல்வதற்கு என்று வெளியிலிருந்து ஒருவரும் வந்திருக்கிறார். அவர்கள் மிஸ்டர் ஆர். எல். மிச்சல், ஜே.பி. ஷேரர். இவர்கள் இருவரும் வேலையை பகிர்ந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள்.

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMY : May I know whether that Expert is an Expert in Transport Organisation affairs or in labour affairs?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I am afraid, Sir, this arises out of a confusion. He is an expert in productivity. Whatever the system, whether it is industrial productivity, mechanical productivity, or transport productivity, he is an expert in increasing the productivity of the particular system of work he has undertaken. So, as an Expert in productivity, he has been brought here.

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SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Was not a similar committee appointed some years back with one representative from Messrs. T.V.S. I believe it is Mr. Krishnan—and another Mr. Anantharamakrishnan of Messrs. Simpsons to advise our Government on the working of the Madras City Transport? What was their report like and what action was taken on the report?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : These two examinations are quite different. The present enquiry is to increase efficiency and productivity, which is based on the latest suggestions by the International Labour Organization with regard to improved production and improved efficiency.

* 112 Q.—**SRI K. VINAYAKAM AND SRI A. A. RASHEED :** Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government propose to raise the fares in Government Bus Transport in the City of Madras; and

(b) if so, on what basis the fares will be increased?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (a) & (b) The question is under consideration by the City Transport Advisory Committee.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : May I know, Sir, on what basis the increase in fares would be effected? Was any reference made to the City Transport Advisory Committee in this regard, Sir?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, in the course of the Budget discussion, I stated that our cost has gone up as a result of certain taxes imposed. Our approximate increase in cost of operation is about 12 lakhs. I said that, in order to meet the increased cost of operation, three ways were possible; (1) to increase the fares; (2) to reduce expenditure and (3) to increase efficiency of operation. I said that Government had decided to try the last, namely, to increase the efficiency of operation. Only if it did not succeed, the Government would think of the other alternatives. Government are now trying their utmost to increase efficiency of operation. But in the meantime the idea of having the fares rationalised so that they may come on a par with the fares in Bombay and Delhi was put before the Transport Advisory Committee for their consideration. The fares will not be raised all along the line. The idea is to rationalise the fares for different stages and thereby see that there is not much loss in working this.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : It is not the policy of the Government to run the City Transport on a 'no-profit—no-loss basis'.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, absolutely and totally 'No'.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Sir, is the Hon. Minister at least aware of the fact that there is a great amount of public opinion against the tendency to raise the bus fares. Rather of than increasing the fares, will the Government come forward to rationalise the stage system?